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Dean: Essential to know Forest Science

KUCHING: Forest Science is relevant in Malaysia even though it does not attract much interest from many universities around the world.

This view was expressed by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Dean of Faculty of Resource Science and Technology Professor Dr Mohd Hasnain Md Hussain, who also said educators and policy makers must be proficient in the subject to make accurate decisions on forest and environmental issues.

"Here we recognise that society cannot function well without stable forests that provide numerous benefits and comforts since the birth of civilisation," he said before opening the floor for talks by invited speakers from International Union Of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) on Forest and Ecosystem Science Education at Unimas yesterday.

The talks on topics related to forest science were delivered by IUFRO representatives Professor Dr Yoo Soo Kim of Chonnam National University, South Korea; Unimas Associate Professor Dr Andrew Wong Han Hoy, Siti Hanim from Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Universiti Putra Malaysia Prof Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam.

On Unimas, Mohd Hasnain said it has academic staff who are specialists in various aspects of forest sciences and forest research, thus will be able to impart to students in-depth knowledge that make them employable in the field.

Having institutions that are members of IUFRO and strong in the teaching and research programmes on forest science, forestry and wood science, he believed Malaysia can forge links with other universities around the world and expand its global network.

“It is gratifying to note that IUFRO is having this session and talk in Unimas on Forest Science education as the knowledge will help us in the management and trade of our forest which is important to Sarawak’s economy, he added.

The talk was organised by Unimas in collaboration with IUFRO and STEMstates.

Source: The Borneo Post